

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 23, lines 9-21 with the following:

--An audio patent list decoder 210 is provided to decrypt encrypted audio patent list data with the decrypting key stored in the audio decrypting key data storing unit 209, and to decode the decrypted audio patent list data. An audio patent list storing unit 211 is provided in which is stored a list of patents and utility models indispensable for the audio encoding system. This list is information on patent and utility model licenses issued from the patent licensing corporation. A comparator ~~211~~ 212 is provided to compare an output from the audio patent list decoder 210 and the patent list stored in the audio patent list storing unit 211.--